

Reports of the Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector for the Rural District Council of Drayton, for Year ending Dec. 31st, 1898.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DRAYTON.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DRAYTON.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ending 31st December, 1898.

Gentlemen,—In my fortnightly reports to the Council I have given an account during the year of the incidence of zymotic disease and of the various sanitary transactions, brought under my notice. The regulations of the Local Government Board require that I should in this, my annual report for the past year, furnish the vital statistics with comments upon them and upon various other subjects relating to the general health of the district under my superintendence.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population of the district to the middle of 1898 is 11,573, showing a decrease since the last census of 396, and of 941 since the census of 1881.

The number of marriages registered in the district during the year 1898 was 77, giving a marriage-rate of 6.65 per 1,000. The average rate for the preceding 10 years being 6.29. The births registered numbered 299 of which 19 were illegitimate. The birth-rate for 1898 was 25.83 per 1,000, the average rate for the ten previous years being 26.33; England and Wales 1898, 29.4. The deaths registered in the district numbered 184, equal to a death-rate of 15.89 per 1,000 of population. The average death-rate for the ten preceding years was 15.84; England and Wales, 1898, 17.6. Deaths from zymotic diseases per 1,000 of population, 1898, 0.51; average of the ten years preceding 1898, 1.17; England and Wales, 1898, 2.22. Forty-two infants under one year of age died during the year, giving a death-rate of 140.4 per 1,000 births; England and Wales, 1898, 161.

The number of births registered in 1898 is only one less than in 1897, but is less by 55 than in 1896, when 354 births were registered.

Of the 184 deaths registered in 1898, 42 were under one year and 55 above the age of 70; the two extremes of life thus accounting for more than half of the total deaths. Nineteen deaths were certified as due to "old age" alone, the average ages being 82.2; eight were males, with an average age of 82.12; and 11 females with an average age of 82.27. Twenty-three deaths were certified as due to heart disease, ten to cancer, five to phthisis, and thirty-four to bronchitis and other diseases of the respiratory organs. There were four deaths due to premature birth, two to suicide by hanging, one to accidental drowning, and two to burns. The official table affixed to this report gives further details as to causes of, and ages at death.

VACCINATION.

The following are the details of vaccination in the Drayton Rural district for the year 1898:—

Of the 299 children born, 219 were successfully vaccinated, 33 died unvaccinated, 27 were not of age at the end of the year, 12 were postponed by Medical Certificate, 4 left the district, 2 were returned as insusceptible, and 2 remained unvaccinated in consequence of the parents having conscientious objections, and making declarations under Section 2 of the Vaccination Act, 1898.

BACTERIAL TREATMENT OF SEWAGE.

Plans have now been prepared, and await the approval of the Local Government Board for the disposal of the Sewage of Little Drayton. The system adopted is that of Colonel Walter M. Ducat and includes an aerated bacterial self-acting filter, etc. Market Drayton sewage still remains to be dealt with upon modern principles.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year 1898, thirty-four cases of infectious disease were notified to me under the "Infectious Diseases Notification Act," 1889, viz.:—Scarlatina 8, Erysipelas 12, Membranous Croup 1, Enteric Fever 1, and Diphtheria 12.

OUTBREAK OF DIPHTHERIA.

In January a fatal case (imported) occurred in Stafford Street, and in November one in the New Town. These were successfully confined to the single individuals affected, but on the 23rd December the first case of what has since proved to be an epidemic in Little Drayton, was notified to me; nine other cases being notified before the end of the year. In my opinion the outbreak was due to an unsuspected case not under medical treatment, attending the National Schools. Owing to the impossibility of the complete isolation of the patient in two or three-roomed cottages, I advised the Council to order the Anti-toxin treatment, both as a curative measure for the children affected and as a prophylactic for the rest of the inmates, and I believe that since this has been carried out by the doctors in attendance, not one case has proved fatal, nor has any inoculated inmate become infected. Notwithstanding the adoption of this measure, the epidemic has continued to spread, and it is not surprising that such should be the result in the absence of an isolation hospital. I therefore again suggest, as a subject for the grave consideration of the Council, the provision of such a building where complete isolation could be successfully carried out.

WATER SUPPLY.

The town of Market Drayton is now supplied for the most part with excellent water by the Market Drayton Water Co. The supply has been laid on to 120 additional houses during the year, making the total number of houses supplied 640. In compliance with the communication of the Local Government Board to the Council, dated January 12th, 1898, I inspected in conjunction with Dr. Thursfield—the County Medical Officer—the water supplies of the villages in the district. At Woore, where the pumps are too few, the water analysed, with one exception, was found to be fairly good, the wells there being deep and sunk through clay. But in the other villages the water for the most part is obtained from shallow wells, sunk through porous strata, and of which the majority are badly situated. I cannot do better than here quote an excerpt from the sixth report of the Rivers' Pollution Commissioners, with reference to shallow wells, which illustrates the conditions existing in some parts of the Rural District of Drayton.

The common practice in villages and even in many small towns, is to dispose of the sewage and to provide for the water supply of each cottage or pair of cottages upon the premises. In the little yard or garden attached to each tenement or pair of tenements, two holes are dug in the porous soil; into one of these, usually the shallower of the two all the filthy liquids of the house are discharged; from the other which is

sunk below the water line of the porous stratum, the water for drinking and other domestic purposes is pumped. These two holes are not infrequently within twelve feet of each other, and sometimes even close. The contents of the filth-hole or cesspool gradually soak away through the surrounding soil, and mingle with the water below. As the contents of the water hole, or well are pumped out, they are immediately replenished from the surrounding disgusting mixture, and it is not therefore very surprising to be assured that such a well does not become dry even in summer. Unfortunately, excrementitious liquids, especially after they have soaked through a few feet of porous soil, do not impair the palatability of water; and this polluted liquid is consumed from year to year, without a suspicion of its character, until the cesspool and well receive infected sewage, and then an outbreak of epidemic disease compels attention to the polluted water. Indeed our acquaintance with a very large proportion of this class of potable waters has been made in consequence of the occurrence of severe outbreaks of typhoid fever amongst the persons using them."

The samples taken from wells in the villages of Norton and Hinstock were found upon analysis, with few exceptions, to be more or less contaminated. One or two wells in each of these villages have been cleaned out and improved, but no general action has been taken to ensure a purer supply.

NUISANCES, &c.

I append the comprehensive report of your Sanitary Inspector.—I am, yours faithfully,

A. MACQUEEN, M.D.

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DRAYTON.

Summary of Work of Inspector of Nuisances for the year ended 31st December, 1898.

DWELLINGS.

Formal Notices:—	
Overcrowding	1
Unfit for habitation	2
Notices complied with	1
Still corresponding about	1
Prosecution (and conviction)	1
Informal Notices:—	
Overcrowding	1
Filthy conditions	1
Notices complied with	2
Cases reported but no action ordered by Council:	
Overcrowding	1
Unfit for habitation	1
Other cases investigated on complaint, but not sufficient ground for action found to exist	6
Total number of inspections, observations, inquiries made in connection with the above named case	21

WATER SUPPLY.

Number of New Houses for which certificates have been granted under the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878:

Fourteen of these houses obtain their supply from the Market Drayton Water Company, the others are supplied from wells.

Number of samples of water taken for analysis by Medical Officer of Health

Number of houses supplied from wells from which samples were taken

Twenty-eight samples were taken from wells in the village of Norton-in-Hales, supplying 52 houses, and the School; 4 samples were taken from wells, in Hinstock village, supplying 10 houses and 1 school; 5 samples were from wells in Woore, supplying 15 houses and 1 school; 13 samples were taken from wells in Drayton Parish, supplying 21 houses, and the remainder from isolated houses in various parts of the district. Of the 28 samples from Norton: 9 were certified by the Medical Officer of Health to be "slightly contaminated"; 17 were certified by the Medical Officer of Health to be "unfit for use"; 2 were certified by the Medical Officer of Health to be "good." Four houses have had filters provided by owners; 5 have had wells cleansed, and 4 have had faulty drains near the wells, renewed.

In Hinstock a Dip well from which 7 houses and 1 school are supplied, has been cleansed and protected, and the supply is now satisfactory.

Of the 5 samples from Woore, 2 were contaminated. In one case (well supplying 5 houses) no action has been taken. In the other—also supplying 5 houses another supply from adjoining premises has been arranged for.

Of the 13 samples from Drayton Parish, 9 were contaminated, 4 wells have been cleansed, and the houses obtaining their supply from the other contaminated sources have had the water laid on from the mains of the Market Drayton Water Company.

Of the remaining 5 samples, 3 were contaminated. In two cases the wells have been cleansed and the drains relaid. In the other case, another source of supply—though at a considerable distance—has been provided.

One sample was taken from a well supplying 28 houses, and sent to the County Analyst. It was found to be unfit for use, and the Market Drayton Water Co. are now extending their mains to that part of the Parish.

Formal Notices have been served as follows:—

Failure of supply in wells	8
Number of houses	21
Notices complied with	3
Still corresponding about	2
Impossible to comply with order at reasonable cost	1
No action taken (water now appears to be reaching a higher level in the well)	1
No supply within reasonable distance	7
Number of houses	11
No action taken	1
Insufficient supply	3
Notices complied with	2
Notices complied with	2
Still corresponding about	1
Defective covering	1
Notice complied with	1
Informal Notice complied with	1
The case of a public well (supplying 9 houses) unprotected is under consideration by Council.	

Inquiries and investigations as to the water supply of Hodnet and Cheswardine Villages have been made by Dr. Thursfield, the County Medical Officer, accompanied by Dr. Macqueen and the Inspector.

Twenty wells supplying 47 houses were inspected in Cheswardine and 18 wells supplying over 70 houses, in Hodnet. Several samples were taken by Dr. Thursfield for analysis. The data of analy-

ses have not yet been made known to the District Council.

Total number of inspections, observations, and inquiries made in connection with water supply

DRAINS.

Formal Notices:—

Number of houses	24
Notices complied with	19
Still corresponding about	5
Number of houses (included in above number) to which proper drains have been provided by authority at owners' cost	6

Informal Notices:—

Number of houses to which new drains have been provided or old drains made good	21
All informal notices complied with.	
Total number of inspections, observations, and inquiries made in connection with above mentioned cases	95
Number of inspections, etc., made and no cause for action found	42

PRIVIES.

Formal Notices:—

Structural defects	24
Requiring cleansing	4
Notices complied with	9
Still corresponding about	7
Works in progress	8
Number of houses	23
Number of schools	2

Informal Notices:—

Structural defects	13
Requiring cleansing	40
Number of houses	65
Notices complied with	53
Number of inspections, observations and inquiries made in connection with the above cases	172
Number of inspections, etc., made on complaint and in ordinary course of work of inspection, and no nuisances detected	116

PIGS AND OTHER ANIMALS.

Formal Notices:—

Structural defects	2
Cleansing	1
Notices complied with	2
Number still corresponding about	1

Informal Notices:—

Structural defects	4
Cleansing	6
Notices complied with	10
Total number of inspections, etc., in connection with the above named cases	29
Number of inspections, etc., made on complaint, or in ordinary course of duties, and no cause for action found to exist	41

ACCUMULATIONS AND DEPOSITS, CESSPOOLS AND DITCHES.

Formal Notices	6
Notices complied with	5
Still corresponding about	1
Number of occupiers by whose default the nuisances arose	13
Total number of inspections, observations, and inquiries made	19
Informal Notices	23
Notices complied with	28
Number of occupiers by whose default the nuisances arose	37
Total number of inspections, etc., made in connection with cases in which informal notices were given, or on complaint, or in ordinary course of duties of Inspector	113

Smoke Nuisance:—

Premises inspected on complaint	1
Nuisance abated	1
Number of inspections etc.	3

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The white-washing of walls, etc., of the three Registered Common Lodging Houses in the District has been carried out satisfactorily during the year.

Number of visits of inspection

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

In connection with the trades of "Fellmonger," and "Knacker," and "Offal Boiler," carried on by two persons within the parish of Market Drayton, a number of complaints have been made as to the noxious exhalations which appear to be inseparable from such trades. The offending persons have been repeatedly warned by the authority, but no further action has yet been taken.

Number of visits of inspection

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Two slaughter houses have been licensed during the year. The number in Market Drayton is now 10. Some of the buildings are old and not very well suited for the purpose of slaughtering animals. In the opinion of the Inspector structural alterations will be necessary in some cases; otherwise it will be impossible for the occupier to carry out effectually the requirements of the proposed new bye-laws when they come into operation. At present the occupiers do all they can, with the limited accommodation which is at their disposal, to keep the places clean and in good order.

Number of Inspections made

THE PETROLEUM ACTS.

The number of persons holding licenses under the Acts up to July was 6.

No. of Licenses renewed in July, 1898

The premises are in a satisfactory condition.

Number of inspections

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of Houses Disinfected after Diphtheria under personal supervision of the Inspector 1

Number of ditto ditto after Scarlatina

Several houses exclusive of above have been disinfected by the occupiers acting under the instructions and supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. On 27th December four houses and the adjoining premises were inspected by the Medical Officer of Health, accompanied by the Inspector, in connection with the Diphtheria outbreak in Drayton Parish. Disinfectants are being supplied, and the cases are being kept under observation.

SEWERS.

Various repairs to sewers in Market Drayton have been carried out by the Council's workmen, under the superintendence of the Inspector.

The road gullies on main roads are now maintained and cleansed by the County Council.

All Council meetings and Committee meetings have been attended during the year.

The Report on Canal Boats has already been presented.

GEORGE A. CRAIG

(Mem. San. Inst.)

Inspector of Nuisances

